What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #234:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello coin enthusiasts!

As promised, here is another newsletter to discuss the next round of auctions. There is a lot coming up so in order to not overload everyone, I am trying to break it up a bit.

NAC 158-162 (5-6 November)
The much anticipated NAC sales will take place on November 5 and 6 in Zurich, Switzerland at the Baur au Lac hotel. Here is a brief introduction and a few notables for each sale.

NAC 158 is the compact, yet powerful, Zhuyuetang collection of Classical and Hellenistic Greek Coinage. There are 174 lots in this sale. It starts with a bang on lot 1 with a large silver shekel of Carthage. This coin is massive in comparison with what is normally available for the type. It is 30mm in width and weighs 22.08g. It comes from a 2015 NAC sale and was the cover coin of ACIP (Ancient Coinage of the Iberian Peninsula) by Villaronga & Benages. You couldn't ask for a better example of this type. Lot 14 is not a particularly sharp example but is exceedingly rare and not often available. This tetrobol from Terone features a satyr crouching over and looking into a wine amphora. Lot 31 is another issue that is barely seen on the market. Although with quite porous surfaces, it is among the nicer examples I've encountered. The coin shows a quite vivid historical scene of Alexander the Great charging right, Alexander thrusts his sarissa (a long Macedonian spear) toward the opposing elephant. This is a vivid scene recalling the Battle of the Hydaspes River (326 BC), in which Alexander defeated King Porus on the Indian subcontinent. On the reverse, Alexander stands left, dressed in military attire and wearing a Phrygian helmet with plumes—an iconographic type that merges the Greek hero and the Eastern conqueror. This coin was not meant for ordinary circulation but rather as a commemorative issue—a monumental piece celebrating Alexander's conquest of India and his emergence as basileus of the world. The coin fuses historical realism (the Hydaspes battle) with divine iconography (thunderbolt and Nike), establishing Alexander as both heroic conqueror and semi-divine ruler. Lot 49 is a rare type from the expanding Macedonian rule under Philip V, when it was under siege by the Romans in 197 BC. This stater is struck under the general Titus Quinctius Flamininus and reflects the first lifelike portrait of a Roman on a coin. This preceded the coinage of Julius Caesar by over 150 years. There are only eleven reported coins of this type known with four being in museums. An exceedingly rare type. Lot 88 is another exceedingly rare type from the city of Delphi. Delphi was one of the most sacred and symbolically powerful sites in the ancient Greek world, both a religious sanctuary and a pan-Hellenic cultural center. Perched on the southern slopes of Mount Parnassus in central Greece, overlooking the valley of the Pleistos River, Delphi was regarded as the navel (omphalos) of the world—the spiritual and

off as a duplicate from the Athens museum. Lot 113 is a beautiful type reflecting a laureate head of Artemis. The reverse has a powerful image of Herakles in a warrior pose. This coin is from the 1966 Argos hoard and was auctioned first in a 2001 Leu auction. Lot 152 on first glance at the obverse appears to be a normal Alexander III, the Great tetradrachm. Although upon seeing the reverse it is obvious that this is something more special. This coin was struck under Seleucus I, a general under Alexander and the future ruler of the Seleucid Empire. It was struck around c. 295 BC at Ecbatana (modern Hamadan, Iran), and it captures the transition from Alexander's empire to the Seleucid dynasty, blending commemoration, political legitimacy, and divine imagery in one masterpiece. The reverse with Alexander on horseback is a striking innovation: Seleucus places Alexander's image on his own coin, under his own royal name.

There is a small extension "catalog" of the 158 with 6 coins specifically from the Hunt Sale from a 1990 Sotheby's auction. For those that aren't familiar, the Hunt brothers attempted to corner the silver market which led to a fatal crash of the metal. In the attempt to bail themselves out of financial ruin, the brothers sold off their collection of coins and antiquities. Most interesting is an almost complete set (unfortunately missing year 5) of the First Revolt of Judaea. As a side note, the current price of silver today has actually exceeded the level that the Hunt Brothers crashed the market!

Auction 159 is a wonderful collection of Italian coins from the Dr. William James Conte collection. Dr. Conte is no stranger to consignment of his various collections. Going back to 1994, Baldwins auctioned a group of Roman and Byzantine coins from his collection. Following the 1994 sale, he placed his Anglo-Saxon coins in a 1997 Baldwin's sale. Later sales include two CNG sales and two earlier NAC auctions. This current group of 307 lots is the first catalog from Conte's Italian coinage collection, specifically, Kingdom of Naples. I noted a few lovely pieces worth consideration. Lot 288 is sesquiducato or 1 ½ ducato of Alfonso V of Aragona, I as King of Naples. This gold coin features the coat of arms on the obverse and an elegantly portrayed standing king on horseback on the reverse. Lot 345 is a rare and nicely struck gold ducat of Alfonso II of Aragona. This comes from an Aureo & Calicó sale of 2009. Lot 350 is a unique and interesting Ostentation or coronation half carlino of the same emperor. The write-up on the images is worth a read:

The riddle of the interpretation of the obverse device has been solved by an interesting and learned monograph presented by Gionata Barbieri during the numismatic meeting held in Naples the 5th October 2011. The author offers an interesting and credible interpretation of the coin, allowing previous theories-particularly those of Traina-to be set aside. Barbieri demonstrates that the three figures in the field do not represent crowns, nor do they allude to the Aragonese kingdoms.
According to Barbieri-contrary to Traina, who overlooked this aspect-the symbolism of the depicted numeral is central, linking the coinage to the Battle of Campomorto (1482) and highlighting Alfonso II's attempt to construct his own heroic iconography. The legend VICTOR LIBER celebrates the liberation of Otranto (1481), reinforcing the sovereign's self-glorification. On the reverse, the image of the bird in motion symbolizes the reconciliation with rebellious barons, contrasting with the notion of the "caged sparrow" used by Antonello Sanseverino. The coin thus functions as a political and propagandistic tool, exalting Alfonso II as the guarantor of harmony and freedom. Finally, the letters VAL – E – R, inscribed in scrolls beneath the three diadems on the obverse-an emblem of Alfonso II-should, according to the author, be read as the solution to a rebus: DIA DEMES VALER ("day on which to be most valiant").

Lot 398 is a superb gold ducat of Louis XII of France when they occupied the Kingdom of Naples. It is suggested by the cataloguer to be among the finest specimens known. Lot 424 is another gold ducat during the later Spanish occupation of the Kingdom of Naples. It shows Charles I of Spain on the obverse in a Renaissance stylistic portrait.

Auction 160 and 161 are collaborative catalogs done in association with David Guest Numismatics. Catalog 160 starts with a group of 70 fascinating coins from the recently found New Forest Hoard (2020). This group of coins was put through the procedural Treasure Act and once deemed non-treasure assigned a PAS number and is legally available for sale. The remaining coins in this catalog are consignments from other parties.

Catalog 161 is the second part of the Dr. Irving Schneider collection of coinage from Britain. In this sale we see groats, shillings and half-crowns. What is noteworthy from the

Charles I (1625-1649). The Siege of Carlisle (1644–1645) took place during the First English Civil War, when forces loyal to King Charles I held the northern fortress city against a combined Scottish Covenanter and Parliamentarian army. After the Royalist defeat at Marston Moor, the Scots under Alexander Leslie, Earl of Leven, surrounded Carlisle in October 1644, cutting off supplies but avoiding a full assault. For nearly nine months, the garrison endured extreme hunger and deprivation until, with the King's cause collapsing elsewhere, they finally surrendered on 25 June 1645. The fall of Carlisle marked the loss of one of the last Royalist strongholds in northern England and further sealed Charles I's weakening position in the war. Lot 920 is an even more extreme siege coin type under Charles I when Scarborough was besieged. The desperate state of the people forced them to melt down dishes in order to produce coinage. Siege coinage is a glimpse into how coinage can still be made in even the most extreme of situations. Finally, lot 978 is a pattern coronation coin of the love desperate Edward VIII who abdicated his throne in favor of the American Wallis Simpson. This coin is beyond difficult to obtain and is likely to be the only shilling available on the market for many years to come.

The final catalog from NAC is **auction 162**, the second installment of the Traveller Collection. This sale covers the Habsburg Empire, Germany, the Netherlands, and Czechoslovakia and more. Presumably the star coin and oft publicized lot from the sale is 1008, a multiple ducat of 100 struck in the Praha mint under Ferdinand III, the King of Hungary in 1625, later Bohemia (1627) and finally, emperor (1637-1657). This massive coin is only the 4th specimen known to exist. Even the cabinet in Vienna only has a 50 Ducat piece. This coin was purchased by the owner in March 1936 through a Spink sale (Newcomer collection). For those interested in learning more please see the catalog listing. As with the first Traveller catalog, all these coins were buried together in the 1930's and recently unearthed by the family.

Künker Auction 433 (10-12 November)
Künker has other sales in November but I will focus only on the live floor ancient sale that takes place the 10-12 of November. There are 1,448 lots in this auction which also features coins from a few named collections: the Willi Scheer collection of Roman Provincial Coins, The Christoph Buchhold Collection and the Dr. Carl Friedrich Zschucke Collection. I was able to view this sale on my recent trip to Germany and was impressed with the quantity of pedigreed pieces throughout.

Some notables include lot 6026, a beautifully struck stater from Aspendus with a forepart of a prancing horse on the reverse. This coin comes from a NAC 33 auction in 2006. Lot 6246 is a pretty Celtic coin from Pannonia with sharp strike and rare torque symbol in the exergue on the reverse. This coin goes back to a 2005 Giessener Münzhandlung auction (now G&M). Lot 6269 is a bronze didrachm from the Bretti. It has a pedigree going back to an Ars Classica 1925 sale. Lot 6276 is an off-center didrachm from Akragas but it has amazingly sharp detail on the eagle. Lot 6279 comes from the Salton collection and has a Ars Classica 1933 pedigree. The man-headed bull on the reverse is beautifully struck. Lot 6281 is a signed tetradrachm from Himera that comes more complete than normal. Lot 6286 is an attractive bronze from the Sicilian Greek city state of Kentoripai with an unusual reverse type of a panther. It comes from a Monetarium list from 1994. Lot 6289, a Messana drachm, is pedigreed back to the Henry de Nanteuil collection (1876-1941) and is a plate coin. Lot 6301 is the ever popular tetradrachm attributed to the Demareteion Master. It is an ex-Moretti collection and from a 1998 NAC auction. Lot 6413 is a lovely ⅛ stater from Perikle which is both a plate coin in the reference Podalia as well as with a 1959 Hess-Leu pedigree. Lot 6417 is another interesting type from Soloi with either a god or Amazon kneeling and poised to shoot a bow. There is a satyr head symbol behind him. This coin is ex Spencer Churchill (Ars Classica 1933). Lot 6460 is a reasonably priced Julius Caesar moving mint denarius purchased from Seaby's. Lot 6566 is a nicely struck Vitellius aureus with Boscoreale toning. Lot 6605 is a Titus aureus with a lengthy pedigree going back to Consul Weber (Ex Hirsch XXIV 1909, lot 1220).

I will be participating live by phone in this auction so please get in touch should you need representation help. I've also personally viewed many of the lots.

lots with a strong percentage of Greek coins at the beginning. The sale is titled "Masterpieces" and so they are. Some highlights include lot 7, a gorgeous stater from Calabria which is a plate coin in Fischer-Bossert (130a), Holloway (3 and enlarged p. 96) and was exhibited and published in the Antikenmuseum Basel in 1988. The reverse is an outstanding image of the nymph Satyra. Lot 32 is a stunning unsigned dekadrachm from Syracuse with a beautifully rendered portrait of Arethusa. It also has a pedigree going back to 1914. Lot 44 is a wonderful early stater from the Thraco-Macedonian Tribes. It is a plate coin in AMNG (pl. XIV, 24), Imhoof-Blumer (pl. 14, 24) and from a Hess 1931 auction. Lot 72 is a gold stater from the Tauric Chersonese which has a pedigree going back to the du Chastel collection (1842-1919) and was auctioned originally in a Feuardent auction back in 1889. It is a type that is infamously forged so this coin is both lovely and a rarity to find with such a lengthy pedigree. Lot 92 comes from the Weber collection (1823-1918) and is a beautifully struck early Corinth stater. Lot 104 has an unusual obverse rendering of the god Priapos. It has an old pedigree back to a 1966 Hess-Leu auction. Lot 128, a stater from Egypt, is probably one of the finest specimens known and is the only ancient coin to have a hieroglyph representation. The reverse imagery is perfectly struck and well centered. Lot 143 and 144 are two extremely rare early Republican gold stater and half stater lots. It has the laureate janiform head of the dioscuri on the obverse with an oath-taking scene on the reverse. Lot 152 is a coin near and dear to me as I bid on this for the consignor back in 2019. This is probably the finest known tetradrachm of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. It is doubtful another one as nice will come around so soon.

I will be phone bidding in this auction so please do get in touch should you need any auction representation.

Coin of the week

Indo-Greek, Baktrian Kingdom. 6145-140 BC
c. 145-140 BC
AR Tetradrachm, 17.03g (24mm,).
Diademed and draped bust of Plato r. Fillet border / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΠΛΑΤΩΝΟΣ
Radiate figure of Helios standing facing on quadriga; in l. field, monogram.

Pedigree: From the Medicus Collection

References: Bopearachchi 1, SNG ANS 628, Mitchiner 198, Qunduz 388.

Grade: An extreme rarity. Light iridescent toning with minor traces of double striking on reverse, otherwise EF

Price: $42,000

gk1996

Buy Coin

Despite being one of the last Greek kings to rule in Bactria, or perhaps because of it, Plato's coinage stands as testament to the fragility of imperial power. This claim is backed up by the fact that there were no coins of Plato discovered during Aï Khanoum excavations. A notable fact, as the city had been destroyed during the reign of Eukratides I, Plato's father. This means that most likely all local Greek forces fled and that there were no significant efforts to rebuild. As a result, Greek political influence quickly retreated from the area, leaving only an intriguing artistic legacy. This legacy can be seen in the fascinating Gandhara art of central Asia. This Buddhist artform reached its height several centuries after the retreat of Bactrian power, and was further influenced by later Roman traders. Despite the fact that during the period of direct Bactrian rule local art depicted western themes in a western style, this later style embodied a dramatic cultural blending of Central Asian and Western European art and culture. It can be jarring to see a Buddha with distinctly European facial features and hairstyles.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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